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## SERUM THERAPY IN CANADA IN 1861.

BY SIR JAMES GRANT, K.C.M.G., F.R.C.P., Lond.

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The subject of Serum Therapy, through which Dr. Freidman, of Berlin, Germany, has visited this continent, is now world wide, and so closely identified with a life saving influence, that I have pleasure in submitting to this Association, the following history of its origin:—

Nineteen years have elapsed since the formation of "The Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis," and the marked progress during that period, in staying the growth of Tuberculosis is truly most encouraging, and the evolution, in this department of Science, is of the most undoubted character. Within the past half century, Virchow, Pasteur, Koch, Lister, Wright, and Flexiner revolutionized the domain of Bacteriology, and their discoveries marked beyond doubt their well defined scientific advancement. In 1861, as physician to General Protestant Hospital, Ottawa, assisted the late Dr. Hamnet Hill in a surgical operation, and contracted blood poisoning, while at that time in a poor state of health. After several weeks of serious illness, my entire system underwent a complete change for the better, to perfect recovery, and for the past fifty years of strenuous duty in a noble profession, have not been a single day off work. Why such a remarkable change for the better should have taken place was a difficult problem. I concluded that an outside poison had nullified the influence of an inside poison in my system, which stimulated research along these lines. I then introduced into the system of patients with skin disease, the Serum of ordinary vaccine, with the most practical and convincing results, and on the 20th February, 1863, over 50 years ago, published the entire facts, Medical Times and Gazette, London, England, drawing attention to a chief point, that such data prove nothing unfavorable to the claims of vaccination as a protective agent against small-pox, they prove only that which each day's experience tends to corroborate, "*That man has still much to learn.*"

Since that date the whole Science of Bacteriology has been developed, and recognition of Serum Therapy as an undoubted potent factor in the cure of disease.

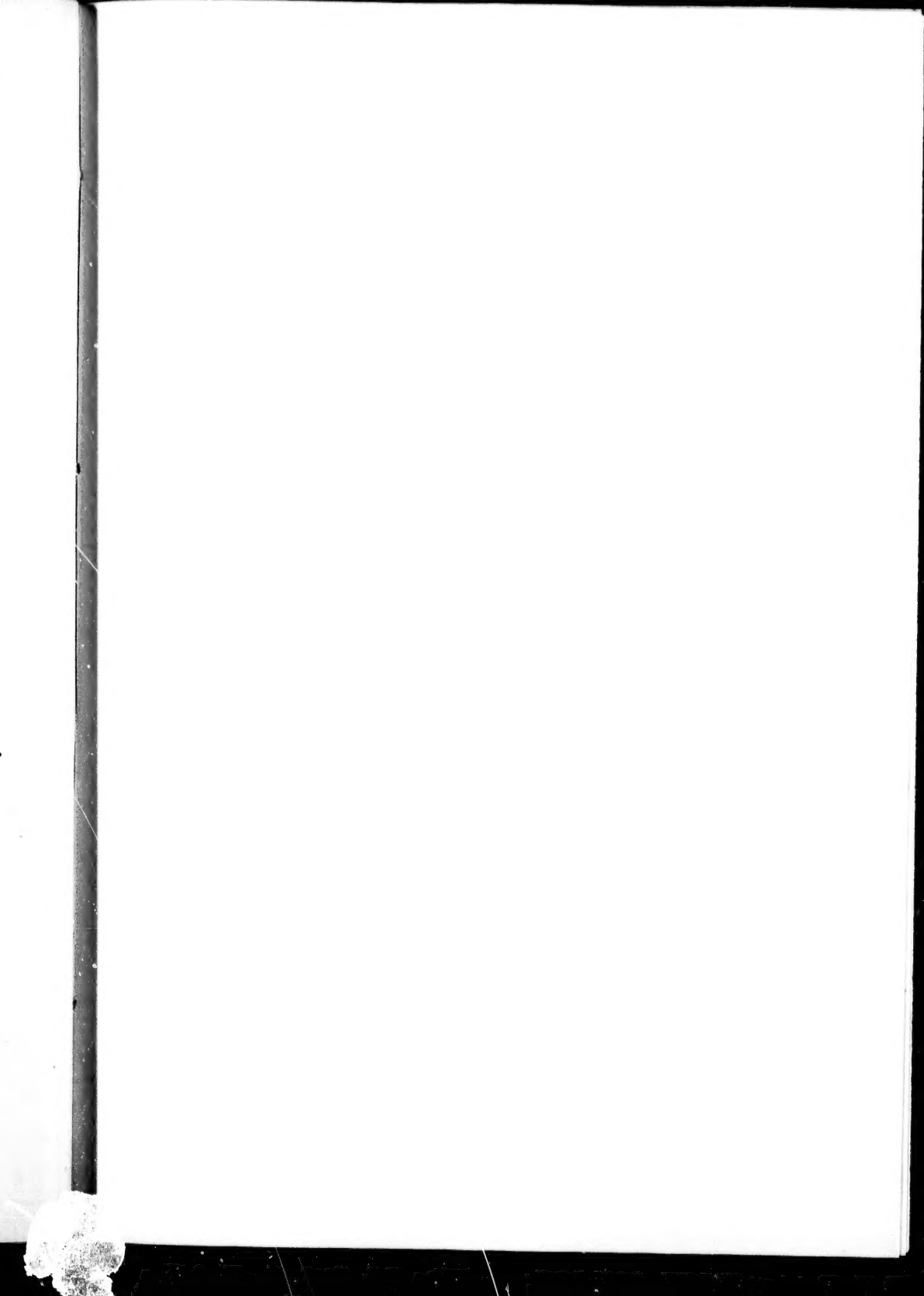
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## INOCULATIVE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The Koch treatment still continues to be a matter of interest and speculation among the members of the medical profession throughout the world. The enthusiastic assurances of success, made rather upon a knowledge of the discoverer of the remedy than upon the results of its use, have, in a measure, abated, and all are waiting for tabulated results to pronounce the success or failure of the remedy. It would at present be unwise to hazard an opinion upon the matter, but the report of relapses in some of the cases of lupus are somewhat discouraging, and in the cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, the time elapsed has not yet been sufficient to state anything definite. It may reasonably be inferred that inasmuch as the remedy is an extract of the tubercle bacillus, its injection in large and repeated doses would, in certain cases, induce acute miliary tuberculosis. It has been asserted that in the event of failure of the treatment the idea of treating diseases by inoculation of the products of bacteria is a valuable suggestion to the practical therapist. But this is in no sense a new idea, for in the *London Medical Times and Gazette* of March 14, 1863, Sir James A. Grant, of Ottawa, showed the possibility of *vaccination* proving curative in many forms of contagious affections, and his communication of that date forms a very interesting item in the light of the discoveries of Dr. Koch.

Credit has been given by Dr. Radcliffe Crocker, of University College Hospital, London, to the paper on this subject of 1863, in his work on Skin Diseases.





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In these days when cure by injections or inoculations is attracting such widespread attention, it may be of interest to note that so far back as 1863, Dr. James Grant, of Ottawa, (now Sir James Grant), applied ordinary vaccination for the cure of skin disease, and with evidence of success. His paper on the subject may be found in the *Medical Times and Gazette*, London, for the year above mentioned. In some of the cases various remedies had been administered as alterative with apparently little benefit, but after vaccination the disease disappeared in a comparatively short time. In other cases no remedy other than vaccination was tried and healing followed. From all the conclusion is drawn that the vaccination acted as an alterative on the nutrition. Apparently this is just what Koch's lymph does, though it would seem that it is peculiar in selecting the tissues that are the site of the specific disease.

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I humbly apologize for calling the attention of the Association to this important subject, after half a century of almost slumbering science, but my chief desire is to guard the position of Canada, as to priority in this great problem, on the success of which rests, the relief of suffering humanity, in a great variety of diseases, not the least Tuberculosis.